

Dedicated to providing lifelong support for independent living

CONTACT

1560 N. 3rd St. Laramie, WY 82072 307-745-5116 executive@eppsoncenter.org www.eppsoncenter.org facebook.com/eppsoncenter

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CENTER HOURS

8am- 4pm | Mon - Fri **MEALS** 11:30am - 12:30pm | Mon - Fri **TRANSPORTATION**

8am - 3:30pm | Mon - Fri 307-745-1511 (Ext. 131)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Keith Seebart VICE PRESIDENT: Diane DeLany SECRETARY: Lisa Levin TREASURER: Bernard Steinman Diana Bartke Pamela Clarke Cheryl Fleener Barbara Humphreys

FROM THE DIRECTOR, TAMMY COMER



Hello and Merry Christmas!

Wow, and before we know it...December is here again! As this year comes to an end, I wanted to be sure to reflect on some of the positive things that have happened at the Center in 2022.

Great Things that Happened in 2022

- The Eppson Center was able to fully reopen to the public in February of 2022 after a long year of being closed and only providing Home Delivered, Take Out Meals, and limited Activities. Our staff has worked very hard to bring in new activities, new menu ideas, and were just delighted to see all of you back here. We continue to see an uptick in new patrons and that's just what we want - more people to enjoy the offerings and to socialize with!
- Emma has regularly brought back activities that we had prior to COVID, along with a lot of new offerings from instructional art classes to performances and education opportunities!
- Our Dollar A Month Club (DAMC) is working very hard at reestablishing the Club after a hiatus due to COVID. The group is responsible for events that bring in needed funds to be used for special projects and needs at the Center. We thank all of you who are currently involved and reach out to those of you who are not yet and ask that you get involved so that the Dollar A Month Club can continue.
- The Center's Home Delivered Meals program has expanded exponentially which means that we are able to help nearly twice as many people remain independent in their own homes as long as they possibly can!
- The meals coming out of the Kitchen are turning out great and we have been able to introduce many new recipes for your enjoyment!

United Way Way Wyoming Wyoming Wyoming Continued on page 3

DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE



Eppson Center Vecember Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Menu is subject to change	All menu items are served with: 1 cup green salad with dressing 1 cup mixed fruit 1 Dessert Milk	Donations are appreciated for meals for those age 60 and over. Cost per meal for those age 59 and under is \$7.00	1 Baked Chicken Scalloped Potatoes Mixed Vegetables	2 Hamburgers on WGR Oven Fries Lettuce, Tomato, Onion
5 Baked Potato Bar, Bacon bits, Cheese, Sour Cream, Cheesy Broccoli, Crackers	6 Beef Stew with Vegetables Cheddar Biscuit	7 Pulled Pork Sandwich Baked Beans Cole Slaw	8 Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole Mixed Vegetables WG breadstick	9 Baked Pollock Rice Pilaf Mixed vegetables
12 Country Fried Steak Roasted Potatoes Vegetable Medley	13 Chicken Fettucine Alfredo Broccoli Florets WW Breadsticks	14 Shrimp Stir Fry with Asian Vegetables Vegetable Fried Rice	15 Hot Turkey Gravy Over Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Wheat Rolls	16 Ham and Split Pea Soup Wheat Roll Mixed Vegetables Sliced Cheese
19 Spaghetti Marinara California Blend Garlic Toast	20 Philly Cheesesteaks Baked Potato Chips Crudité	21 Red Beans and Basmati Rice with Andouille Cucumber & Tomato Salad	22 Chicken Enchilada Casserole Spanish Rice/Beans Santa Fe Blend	23 Christmas Eve Closure
26 Christmas Day Closure	27 Chicken Tortilla Soup Cheese, Sour Cream, Tortilla chips, WG Tortilla	28 Roast Beef Sandwich on WG Bread, Baked Chips, Crudité	29 Baked Ham Sweet Potatoes Black Eyed Pea Salad WG Roll	30 Baked Tilapia, Angel Hair Pasta, Lemon Butter, Italian Blend Vegetables

Eppson Center for Seniors Holiday Closures: December 23 & 26 for Christmas and January 2nd for New Years! **Happy Holidays!**

continued from page 1 TAMMY COMER

- Transportation has been able to return to providing rides for social, education, employment and personal purposes which has been great for our patrons. We were able to purchase a new 14-passenger bus that we will be using for field trips as the weather gets nicer, and using it for Friday Nights Out to get folks out with friends for a meal and fellowship!
- Our Core Staff of Department Heads are all hired and most have been with us over two years. This is something in today's hiring climate! I am so proud of all of our staff members for their dedication to our mission and willingness to work hard to support Laramie's older adults!
- Our Board of Directors continue to be very supportive and are helping us to ensure that the Eppson Center is stable and continue on for the next 50 years!
- Many new friendships have begun at the Eppson Center and we will continue to seek new patrons to increase those numbers!

These are only some of the wonderful positive outcomes we have seen this year, and by no means, do I mean to leave anything out, but for the sake of newsletter space, I'm listing these!

Please welcome Carrie Miller back into the Kitchen. We missed her while she was away and the kitchen is again fully staffed!

Our Operating Board continues to work on the Strategic Planning Process for the next five years and our Retreat has been rescheduled until January in order to allow us enough time to survey patrons, staff, Board Members, and community partners. If you did not get a chance to complete the survey, either online, or on paper at the Center, please reach out and let us know. We truly want to hear what you have to say and appreciate your time, effort, and comments to complete this survey! (The online link is on page 12 of this newsletter.)

Grateful for you, as always! Tammy





DECEMBER HIKES

Due to weather issues, the Seniors on the Go hikes may change from the schedule below. Make sure you let us know if you will join us or meet us in case we do switch. For questions or to get more Seniors on the Go information email: sotg@eppsoncenter.org Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaramieSOTG/

December 2	Pilot Hill Road: Buck Sullivan Spring – RAW hike. Take I-80 to Happy Jack exit (#323), go across the viaduct and turn left onto Happy Jack Road. Continue almost a mile and turn left onto FR703 across from Tie City. Drive about 1.5 miles to an area on the right where we can park. We will be across the road from the buck fence (before the cattle guard), and close to the towers looking North. The road can be a little rough in spots, so drive carefully. Some of the hike is out in the open, including some sagebrush. The distance is around 4 miles and is rated moderate.
December 9	Snowy Range: Little Laramie Trailhead . From Laramie, go west on Hwy 130 to Centennial and continue for 3.5 miles to the trailhead on the north (right) side of the highway. When we get there, we will decide which trail to hike. Elevation 8,780 – 9,140.
December 16	Vedauwoo: Blair Trail by Brady Rock. KFC hike. Take I-80 to Happy Jack exit (#323) and at the stop sign, make a right-hand turn onto old Hwy 30. Go 3.8 miles on old Hwy 30, and take FR 705 (Blair Road) under the interstate. (If coming from Cheyenne, take exit 329/ Vedauwoo and go west 2.7 miles to the Blair Road turn.) Drive about 2 miles to the Blair Picnic Area which is a right-hand turn at the river. If the forest gate along Blair Road is closed, we will park by the cattle guard and along the road; this will add about 2 miles to the hike, so we would have to shorten the hike to allow for that. The hike is a moderate 4.5 mile loop from the picnic area to the area's lesser known climbing walls, along the rugged flank of Green Mountain, and back to the parking area. If the FS gate is closed, we may decide on an alternate hike.
December 23, 30, 31, January 1	Merry Christmas! No hike. Happy New Year ! No SOTG hike. Curt Gowdy State Park sponsors a New Year's Day hike as part of First Day Hikes, a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks. Watch for it online and in "The Boomerang." It's a fun way to start the New Year!

STATISTICS MARILYN AIKEN, COORDINATOR (307) 745-5116, ext. 19



When COVID hit nearly 95% of Senior Centers ceased offering congregate meals and transitioned to curbside pickups or expanded home delivered meals. In 2022 congregate programs have been having a revival. Our

numbers are up and bringing in guite a few new participants to all of our programs. In October the Eppson Center had 30 new clients.

Pre-COVID, the average age of a congregate lunch participant was approaching 77.5. In 2022, it's almost 78.3. Fantastic! Those people are also more likely to stick around for an additional event than those who do not participate in a congregate meal. That is one of the most enduring statistics in the 15+ years that we've been tracking data across Centers: People who

attend a congregate meal tend to participate in more programs than people who don't.

Start Your Engines

According to data published in 2019 on a website called Statista, sometime between 1:00pm and 3:00pm is the most popular start time for Thanksgiving dinner.

Eating with others provides nutrition AND socialization, which is a great combination. Heck, it's even the focus of many holidays, including Thanksgiving & Christmas.

We appreciate you taking time to complete your AGNES form when it is due to be renewed. It is fun visiting and seeing so many faces come to the Center to enjoy spending time with friends and family.

EPPSON CENTER TRANSPORTATION GUY MORROW, TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (307) 745-1511



Please call (307) 745-1511 to reserve your ride with as much advance notice as possible.

Ridership is up and we are getting busier, so please

reserve your rides as far ahead as possible in the future to get your slot reserved. Please remember to book rides 48 hours in advance.

The Eppson Center was able to purchase a new 14-passenger bus for events that will be planned in the future - be on the lookout for announcements concerning this coming up!

We thank you for using our Transportation service and we look forward to serving you in the future!

Costs associated with rides:

- Age 60 or over: No cost but donations are always greatly appreciated.
- Age under 60: \$6 per ride or \$12 round trip.
- Age under 60 and have a diagnosed medical disability: \$4 per ride or \$8 per round trip.

Required: All riders must complete a Senior Assisted Transportation Services (SATS) application before they can schedule rides.

Pick-Up hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 3:30pm (closed daily from 12:00-12:30pm).

Ready time window: Riders must be ready to board the van 15 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time until 15 minutes after. The drivers will leave 5 minutes after their arrival in that time window so as not to inconvenience other riders.



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

SENIOR CONNECTIONS ERICA ANDERSON, COORDINATOR 307-745-5116, Ext. 127;



Loan Closet Happenings

• The Lloan Closet is a service that lends out donated medical equipment to members of the community. We also gladly

accept your donations of new or gently used medical equipment and currently have a need for new incontinence supplies, especially women's pads (medium to heavy absorbency) and medium pullup underwear.

- The Loan Closet is open Monday-Friday, 8:00am 4:00pm.
- Please call ahead of time, ask for Erica Anderson, ext. 127. I will do my best to get back to you within the next day or so.

Beltone

- This service offers hearing aids, hearing aid tests, and hearing aid maintenance.
- Beltone is at the Center on December 1st.
- Schedule your appointment with Kelly by calling 307-214-4937.

Snowy Range Foot Care



- Take good care of your feet and say goodbye to foot pain!
- Snowy Range Foot Care is at the Eppson Center December 8 and 15.
- Call Lorraine at 307-760-1196 to schedule your appointment.

Counseling Services

 Now accepting new clients. Sonia Kho, a master's student in Mental Health Counseling at the University of Wyoming, supervised by Ty Tedmon-Jones (MS, LPC, LCAT, BC-DMT), will be providing free 50-minute long one-on-one or couples counseling at the Center. Sonia

$email: {\it senior connections} @eppsoncenter.org \\$

has a person-centered approach to therapy and is trained in a variety of topics but is mainly focused on grief and loss, anxiety, depression, relational issues, and periods of transition.

- For more information about her services, expertise, or to schedule an appointment please contact Sonia at skho@uwyo.edu
- ******IMPORTANT: To ensure that your privacy and personal information is kept confidential, please do not disclose your reason that you wish to receive counseling to our staff, or via email with Sonia. Personal details and concerns will only be addressed in person.

Wyoming Senior Smiles Dental Program



Show off those pearly whites! The Wyoming Senior Smiles Dental Program is a low cost dental program designed to serve adults ages 65+ who meet eligibility and income guidelines.

- They're accepting applications for the 2023 program through December 16, 2022.
- For information, please contact the Wyoming Delta Dental Foundation at 307-632-3313 or https://www. deltadentalwy.org/foundation/ seniorsmiles

We will keep you posted of Eppson Center for Seniors current information through our Weekly Announcements (sign up at announcements@ eppsoncenter.org), on our Facebook page (www. facebook.com/eppsoncenter), on our Website (www.eppsoncenter.org), and through this monthly Newsletter for current information.



ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, & EXERCISE EMMA WHITE, COORDINATOR (307) 745-5116, ext. 114 email: activities@eppsoncenter.org



Add a Personal Touch to Your Christmas Cards

On December 2nd (Friday) from 1:30-3:30pm, University of Wyoming Art Education students will be coming to the Eppson Center to teach a

Make Your Own Christmas Cards Workshop! There is no charge to attend and all supplies will be provided. Spaces are limited, please sign up ahead of time at the Front Desk. Show someone you care by sending them a heartfelt and handmade card this holiday season!

P.S. Not interested in making your own cards? The Eppson Center is selling Christmas cards at the Front Desk at **2 for \$1**, what a deal!

FREE Coffee and Baked Goods

The Dollar a Month Club will be providing FREE coffee and baked goods on December 7th (Wednesday) and 15th (Thursday) from 9:30-10:30am. Drop in anytime for a fun social hour and learn how you can help out with future events such as this one. Reminder, the Dollar a Month Club is in need of new committee members before the new year in order for the club to continue. Please join the meeting on December 15th from 12:30-1:30pm to help keep this club going. For more information or to get involved, contact Emma.

"May Your Days be Merry and Bright"

Join us for a Christmas Celebration on December 13th (Wednesday), time TBD. Fifteen cello students from The String Academy will be here to play their Christmas/end of year program followed by a Christmas Light Tour in the Eppson Center bus. There may even be some treats, games, and for sure a jolly good time.

Woo-hoo Yoga Will Continue!

The Yoga class taught by Doris will continue as a regularly scheduled activity at the Eppson Center. This class will take place from 8:15-9:00am in the Wellness Center on Thursdays. Various styles of Yoga will be taught, so make sure to stop at the Front Desk for a calendar and class description. The December 1st class is Yin/Restorative Yoga. Each session is designed with older adults in mind and will be great for beginners and experienced Yogis. A \$4 donation per class is suggested. The Eppson Center has mats but you may want to bring your own props (particularly blankets, pillows, blocks, etc.). Come experience the positive results of Yoga for yourself.

Watercolor Instructor Wanted

- The Eppson Center is looking for a new watercolor instructor.
- If you or someone you know has a passion for teaching and a talent in watercolor please reach out to Emma.
- This is a fun and well attended class that could use your help!

Stay tuned for more activities in December

A Letter from Activities

Hello everyone and Happy Holidays!

I wanted to take the time to say thank you all for such a wonderful year. I can say from the bottom of my heart that I love my job and it is all because of you! Thank you to everyone who has attended any of the fun events or activities at the Center, stuck with me and my corky ideas, motivated and inspired me in my job and personal life, volunteered to allow these activities to happen, swung by my office to chat (or more likely teased me), and provided input and ideas that help make the Center meaningful to you and so much more. I can only hope to see and hear from you more in the coming year. I am grateful to be able to provide opportunities that allow people to stay active and independent and can't wait to see what new opportunities will present themselves.

Cheers to a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with more activities!

Emma

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Senior Hydrobics 6:00am-7:15am at Laramie Rec Center	Senior Hydrobics 6:00am-7:15am at Laramie Rec Center	Senior Hydrobics 6:00am-7:15am at Laramie Rec Center	Senior Hydrobics 6:00am-7:15am at Laramie Rec Center	Senior Hydrobics 6:00am-7:15am at Laramie Rec Center	
<u>Chess</u> 9:00am-12:00pm	Line Dancing \$2/class 9:00am-10:00am	<u>Chess</u> 9:00am-12:00pm	<u>Yoga</u> 8:15am -9:00am	<u>Seniors on the Go</u> 8:45am	
Fall Prevention 10:30am-11:30am (in East Wing and Zoom)	Musical Exercise With Resistance 10:30am-11:30am	Line Dancing \$2/class 9:00am-10:00am	Musical Exercise With Resistance 10:30am-11:30am	Line Dancing \$2/class 9:00am-10:00am	
<u>Bingo</u> 1:00pm-2:30pm	Bible study with Rich Henderson 1:00-1:45 (on Zoom)	Fall Prevention 10:30am-11:30am (in East Wing and Zoom)	Watercolor Studio session 12:30pm-4:00pm	<u>Chess</u> 9:00am-12:00pm	
<u>Pinochle</u> 1:00pm-3:30pm	Laramie Duplicate Bridge 1:00pm-4:00pm	Laramie Art Guild 1:00-3:30 1 st Wednesday only	Biscuits and Jam (1 st and 3 rd ONLY) 1:00pm-3:00pm	<u>Veterans Coffee</u> 9:00am-10:00am	
<u>Melodees</u> 1:30pm-2:30pm	<u>Uechi Ryu Karate</u> 5:00pm-6:00pm		Drum life (2 nd and 4 th Thursday ONLY) 1:00pm-3:00pm	Fall Prevention 10:30am-11:30am (in East Wing and Zoom)	
	Laramie Fiber Guild 1 st Tuesday ONLY 6:30pm-8:00pm		<u>Mexican Train</u> <u>Dominoes</u> 1:00pm-3:30pm		
			Hi-Wheelers Car Club 6:30pm-8:00pm		
things Eppson Center by liking us on Facebook and/or subscribe to our weekly email announcements-Too Fit To Q -Billiards (cor -Clothing Sew -Game center Free books at		-			
The Eppson Center will be closed for the holidays on December 23 rd , 26 th and January 2nd. We					

hope that your holidays and new year are filled with joy, peace and love.

Have you checked out the New Game Center?

Various board and card games have been generously donated to the Center in hopes that patrons would stop in, play a game, and have a cup of coffee whenever they would like! Interested in being part of a game group that meets on a regular basis? Let Emma know and we will make it a regular activity.

Important Information Regarding Taxes

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will **NOT** be providing tax preparation at the Eppson Center starting in February 2023.

It is essential that all Tax-Aide clients find an alternate source for preparing their 2022 Federal Income Tax returns.

December Activities

HOME DELIVERED MEALS

ERICA CURRY, COORDINATOR (307)-745-5116, ext. 120



ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE! The Eppson Center has an Annual Sock Drive to benefit our seniors with a wonderful warm pair of socks. These socks are added to a small gift bag with other goodies and delivered through



varm pair of socks. These ocks are added to a small gift bag with other goodies and delivered through Home Delivered Meals to those in need. After December 1, there will be a box in the lobby for donated socks. The Dollar A Month Club will

be donating other items to add to the bags. THANK YOU FOR SOCKING IT TO US! The Home Delivered Meals program serves one of Laramie's most vulnerable populations. To reach our goal of enhancing nutritional wellness for all seniors in our community it is important to serve those who are home-bound or otherwise unable to shop and prepare for their own meals.

Hot meals go out to seniors Monday-Friday and frozen meals can be delivered for weekends and holidays.

Interested in getting Home Delivered Meals or have a loved-one that needs Home Delivered Meals? Call Erica today at (307)-745-5116 ext. 20



Eppson Center for Seniors, Laramie, WY C 4C 05-1278

Dinner with Dickens An Immersive 5-Course

Dining Experience





SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH THE EPPSON CENTER FOR SENIORS 1560 NORTH 3RD STREET DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 FESTIVITIES WILL COMMENCE AT 6:15

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE EPPSON CENTER OR ONLINE WWW.EPPSONCENTER.ORG



Eppson Center

Limited Seating Available



Please remember that Ridley's offers shoppers the opportunity to donate their Ridley's points to non-profit organizations and the Eppson Center would love to be the recipients of those points as we receive a quarterly check that benefits our programs!

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Be sure to select Eppson Center for Seniors when you shop on Amazon. It is a simple way for you to support us every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Eppson Center.



Please donate!

You can make checks out to: "Eppson Center for Seniors"

Mail donations to: 1560 N. 3rd Street Laramie, WY 82072

> Be sure to write on your check: "Holiday Lights"





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Have our newsletter emailed to you every week.

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OMMUNITY



The Eppson Center will celebrate 50 years serving our Community in 2023? We are planning a patron's party to

celebrate, along with a Gala Celebration to celebrate our donors and sponsors. We are planning on celebrating all year and invite you to join us at our patron's celebration and continue to invite new people into the Center to participate.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Here is an online link for patrons of the Eppson Center to fill out a survey for the next 5 years of Strategic Planning. Thank you for your help. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ EppsonCenterforSeniors

Albany County Assessor Chelsie R. Mathews

Albany County residents have two forms of property tax relief available to them: the Veteran's Exemption and the Property Tax Refund Program. Both programs have certain eligibility requirements, and an application MUST be completed to receive the benefit.

The veteran's exemption is administered through the Assessor's office and the deadline is the 4th Monday in May every year. The veteran must be honorably discharged with a copy of their DD214 and a Wyoming resident for the past 3 years. They must also meet ONE of the following requirements:

- Served during World War I, World War II (12/7/41 12/31/46), Korean War Emergency (6/27/50 1/31/55), or Vietnam War Emergency (2/28/61 – 5/7/75)
- Awarded an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or other authorized service or campaign medal indicating active service for the United States in an armed conflict in a foreign country
- Have a service-related disability certified by the Veteran's administration or a branch of the armed forces

If approved, the benefit can be applied towards their primary residence or vehicle registration. The benefit equates to about \$200 off the property tax bill or \$90 off vehicle registration. This is an annual benefit.

The property tax refund program was funded by the State of Wyoming for 2021 and 2022 tax refunds. It will have to be approved again in 2023 to continue. The deadline to apply is the 1st Monday in June. The property tax refund program is administered through the Treasurer's office. The citizen must own their home, have paid their 2022 taxes in a timely manner, and be a Wyoming resident for the past 5 years. They must also meet ALL of the following requirements:

- Total personal assets do not exceed \$133,651 per adult household member. They may exclude the
 value of their home and one car for each adult household member, and any retirement accounts.
 They must include other real estate, bank accounts, and investments.
- Their household income is equal or less than 3/4 of the median household income for our county. Albany County is \$45,255

If approved, the refund could be up to ½ of the applicant's prior year property tax. The applications for a refund on 2022 property taxes will be available in mid-April 2023.

525 Grand Avenue 206 / Laramie, WY 82070-3852 / 307-721-2511 www.albany.wy.us / Fax: 307-721-2519 / assessordocs@co.albany.wy.us

Eppson Center for Seniors 1560 North 3rd Street Laramie, WY 82072

